

CORRESPONDENCE.

PARNASSIUS CLODIUS AND P. SMINTHEUS.

SIR,—Good specimens of these species are generally easily separated, but occasionally specimens are taken the identity of which it is difficult to decide. Mr. C. de Blois-Green, of Victoria, B. C., who has taken both specimens in large numbers, has drawn my attention to a character which he finds reliable in all instances. This is that in *Clodius* the antennæ are uniformly black, whilst in *Smintheus* they are ringed with white. Of course, when the abdominal pouch is attached, there is no difficulty in separating the female of *Clodius* with its large pouch from *Smintheus* with its small keel-shaped appendage. The value of these abdominal pouches has been well-worked out by Mr. H. J. Elwes in an exhaustive paper published in the Transactions of the Entomological Society of London. Some specimens received from Mr. de Blois-Green were sent to Dr. H. Strecker, and his opinion asked as to the value of the character based on the colour of the antennæ. His reply, which I think will be read with interest by lepidopterists, is as follows:—

“Your letter and the remnants of the *Parnassius* received. The latter are only *Clodius*, of the form found in the State of Washington and western British Columbia; those further south (California) are not as large nor as brightly coloured, as a general thing. Your correspondent is right in laying stress on the black antennæ. *Clodius* belongs to a group and is allied to some sub-group having black antennæ and large pouches. They embrace *Nordmanni*, from Armenia; *Clarius*, from W. Siberia; *Eversmanni*, from Alaska and Siberia; *Felderi*, the Amoor; *Mnemosync*, Germany- and Switzerland, etc.; *Stubendorfii*, Siberia; and *Glacialis*, Japan; whereas *Smintheus* has white-ringed antennæ, and its allies, distinguished further by the keel-shaped pouch, are *Apollo*, Germany; *Hesbolus*, Mongolia, etc.; *Nomion*, Siberia; *Jacquemonti*, Himalayahs, etc., with white-ringed antennæ also; but there are sub-groups allied to these with the same keel-like pouch as *Apollinus*, Tartary; *Honrathi*, Turkestan, etc., that have all black antennæ, so there is no rule without an exception. Our *Parnassius*, according to my views, are but three species:—

1. *Smintheus*, Dbldy—Hew.
2. *Clodius*, Men.
3. *Eversmanni*, Men.